

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claim 7 stands objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate claim 7 in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 4, 5 and 6 as the Examiner indicated is allowable. Claims 1-10 have been reformatted in accordance with USPTO guidelines.

By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 8-10 have been amended, claims 4-7 have been canceled and new claims 11-20 have been added.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 has been objected to for containing the trademark/trade name "Teflon". The objection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 has been amended to remove the trade name "Teflon." As the amendment has removed the grounds for objection, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase "or the like", rendering moot the basis for the rejection. Claim 3 has been amended to change the relative reference of the height of the appliance to the floor, as requested by the Examiner. The basis for the rejections are no longer present, and therefore Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb, U.S. Patent 3,437,346 in view of Svenvig, U.S. Patent 957, 480. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 7, which the Examiner stated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate base claim 1 and intervening claims 4, 5, 6 and 7. With regard to the remaining claims of the rejection, claims 2, 3 and 10, these claims are now allowable as they now depend from a claim indicated allowable by the Examiner. The rejection to claims 1-6 and 10 are now moot.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb '346 and Svenvig '480 as applied to claims 1-6 and 10 above and further in view of Raffaelli, U.S. Patent 4,554,704. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1, which, as discussed above, is allowable. Applicants request that the Examiner withdrawal the rejection and allow claims 8-9.

New Claims

Independent claim 11 is directed to the dynamic support with an elastic snap-fit connection for coupling the stationary element and the rotary element. Applicants believe this snap-fit connection is not disclosed in the prior art of record and thus represents allowable subject matter.

Serial No. 10/598,954
Filed: April 16, 2007
Page 7 of 7

Examiner: Matthew J. Sullivan
Group Art Unit: 4136

CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments, full support therefore being shown in the drawings and specification as filed. All claims remaining in the application are believed to now be in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

AUGUSTO RIBOLZI, ET AL.

Date: June 25, 2008

By: /Mark A. Davis/
Mark A. Davis, Reg. No. 37,118
McGARRY BAIR PC
32 Market Ave. SW, Suite 500
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 742-3500

G0384165.DOC